

Message Text

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70

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SR-02 ORM-01 AID-05 SCCT-01 OMB-01 INT-05 EB-07

COME-00 /085 W

----- 017421

R 130905Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8816

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY KABUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 1350

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PK, IN, US

SUBJ: GOP BRIEFS ENVOYS ON BHUTTO US VISIT, SEEKS TO
COUNTER INDIAN EFFORTS AGAINST CHANGE IN ARMS SUPPLY POLICY

REF: ISLAMABAD 1333

1. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY. ALTHOUGH ANOTHER
PURPOSE WAS TO PRESENT GOP APPROACH TO PAK-AFGHAN
RELATIONS IN WAKE SHERPAO ASSASSINATION AND BANNING OF
NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY MFA BRIEFING OF CHIEFS OF MISSION HERE IN
LAST COUPLE OF DAYS ALSO INCLUDED DISCUSSION OF BHUTTO
VISIT TO US. MFA'S PRINCIPAL PURPOSE IN THIS EXERCISE
APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN THE RALLYING OF INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT
AGAINST WHAT PAKS REGARD AS MAJOR INDIAN EFFORT TO HEAD
OFF CHANGE IN US MILITARY SUPPLY POLICY TOWARD SOUTH
ASIA. ADDITIONAL FOREIGN SECRETARY NAIK TOLD CHARGE IN
COURSE BRIEFING ON PAK-AFGHAN SITUATION GIVEN US(REFTEL)
THAT PAKS HAD MADE PARTICULAR EFFORT TO GET ARABS TO
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BRING THEIR INFLUENCE TO BEAR IN NEW DELHI ON THIS

SCORE. END INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY.

2. CANADIANS AND AUSTRALIANS HAVE PROVIDED US WITH NOTES TAKEN BY THEIR AMBASSADORS AT BRIEFING OF WESTERN EUROPE/JAPAN BATCH OF ENVOYS BY FOREIGN SECRETARY AGHA SHAHI EVENING FEBRUARY 11 AND HAVE GIVEN US COPY OF AIDE MEMOIRE ON ARMS ISSUE HANDED THEM AT THAT TIME.

3. ACCORDING CANADIAN/AUSTRALIAN ACCOUNT, SHAHI CHARACTERIZED BHUTTO US VISIT AS USEFUL IN ESTABLISHING RAPPORT BETWEEN HEADS OF GOVERNMENT AND EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH RENEWED ASSURANCES OF US COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT OF PAKISTAN'S INDEPENDENCE AND INTEGRITY. PAK GROUP, HE SAID, WAS IMPRESSED BY PRESIDENT FORD'S FRIENDLINESS AND GOOD WILL. THEY WERE ALSO HIGHLY GRATIFIED BY PL 480 DECISION.

4. SHAHI NOTED TO GROUP THAT COMMUNIQUE WAS SILENT ON ARMS SUPPLY ISSUE, BUT RECALLED THAT PAKS HAD RECEIVED ASSURANCES THAT PRESIDENT WOULD GIVE MATTER HIS "ACTIVE CONSIDERATION". EMBARGO, HE CLAIMED, WAS VIOLATION OF PAK-US 1959 MILITARY ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT. HE ASSURED ENVOYS THAT NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH INDIA WAS PROCEEDING AND WOULD NOT BE INTERRUPTED BY RESUMPTION OF ARMS SALES, AND EMPHASIZED THAT PAKS WERE NOT ASKING FOR AID. JUST LIFTING OF EMBARGO ON SALES. PAKS HAD HOPED FOR A FAVORABLE DECISION WHEN THEY REACHED WASHINGTON, BUT FINAL DECISION, HE SAID, NOW RESTED WITH PRESIDENT. TENOR OF HIS REMARKS WAS HOPEFFUL. (ACCORDING CANADIAN ACCOUNT, SHAHI SAID PAKS WERE HOPEFUL THAT A "FACE-SAVING FORMULA- COULD BE WORKED OUT BY US ADMINISTRATION WITH US CONGRESS TO REMOVE WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS "THIS DISCRIMINATORY ANOMALY").

5. SHAHI SAID HE WAS CONCERNED TO ANSWER INDIA'S "VOCIFEROUS AND INTENSE CAMPAIGN" AGAINST CHANGE IN US POLICY. HE SAID INDIANS WERE MAKING THREAT THAT LIFTING OF EMBARGO WOULD LEAD TO DETERIORATION OF US/ INDIAN RELATIONS AND WERE ALLEGING THAT IT WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT SIMLA PROCESS. HE SAID HE THOUGHT THAT IN

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MOUNTING ITS CAMPAIGN TO BLOCK US POLICY CHANGE, GOI WAS MOVED BY CONCERN FOR FACTORS APART FROM SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS. ASKED BY CANADIAN AMBASSADOR WHAT HE MEANT BY THIS, SHAHI LAUNCHED INTO FAMILIAR PAK CHARGE THAT INDIANS SOUGHT HEGEMONY IN SOUTH ASIAN AND WERE "MESMERIZED" BY POSSIBILITY OF BECOMING PREPONDERANT POWER AND EXERCISING "PARAMOUNTCY" IN REGION. GOI DID NOT LIKE FACT PAKS HAD BETTER RELATIONS THAN THEY WITH

MANY OUTSIDE POWERS (CHINA, ARABS WERE MENTIONED) AND
WANTED REGIONAL COUNTRIES TO HAVE FOREIGN TIES ONLY AT
INDIA'S SUFFERANCE. REJECTING THIS, HE REITERATED GOP
CALL FOR SOVEREIGN EQUALITY OF SUBCONTINENTAL COUNTRIES
AND SAID PAKS SAW NO REASON WHY TWO COUNTRIES COULD
NOT HAVE RELATIONS SIMILAR TO THOSE EXISTING BETWEEN
US AND CANADA.

6. TEXT OF AIDE MEMOIRE FOLLOWS IN SEPTTEL.
LUPPI

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMS, CHIEF OF STATE MEETINGS, MILITARY SALES, EMBARGOES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ISLAMA01350
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750053-0759
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750247/aaaabput.tel
Line Count: 125
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 ISLAMABAD 1333
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 JUL 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <21 NOV 2003 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOP BRIEFS ENVOYS ON BHUTTO US VISIT, SEEKS TO COUNTER INDIAN EFFORTS AGAINST CHANGE IN ARMS SUPPLY POLICY
TAGS: PFOR, PK, IN, US, (BHUTTO, ALI), (DAOUD, MOHAMMAD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006